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# COMMERCE

# NEWS

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION  
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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products**

### **May 2004**

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$1.5 billion (2.3 million metric tons)** compared with \$1.3 billion (2.2 million metric tons) in the preliminary April report.

The April to May change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and cold rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Brazil, Germany, and Australia. A decrease occurred primarily with Turkey.

The year to date final statistics through April 2004 showed steel imports of 8.4 million metric tons, compared with 7.5 million metric tons through April 2003. The largest commodity increases were in wire rods and blooms, billets, and slabs. The largest country increases were with Mexico, Canada, Brazil, and Turkey.

### **Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is July 27, 2004*